



## *NEWS RELEASE*

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### **Commissioner Artz Becomes Certified County Commissioner; Receives Scholarship for Advanced Certification**

Crawfordville, FL – Wakulla County Commissioner Lynn Artz earned the Certified County Commissioner designation following her completion of a series of courses developed by the Florida Association of Counties (FAC). Commissioner Artz received the designation along with 48 other county commissioners during an awards ceremony held at the FAC Annual Conference in Hillsborough, FL. She is the third Commissioner in Wakulla County’s history to achieve this certification.

Commissioner Artz was subsequently selected to participate in the 2010-11 Advanced County Commissioner (ACC) program and also chosen to receive one of eight Small County Scholarships. The scholarship, valued at \$450, covers the cost of the ACC training, materials, and meals. Commissioner Artz will pay for her own transportation and lodging to attend three seminars at the University of Florida in October, January, and April.

The Certified County Commissioner coursework that Commissioner Artz recently completed covers a variety of topics, such as county government roles and responsibilities, county government structure and authority, financial management, ethics and sunshine law, negotiation skills, economic development, and effective communication. Completion of all coursework averages 18 to 24 months. “This certification allows our citizen electorate to become experts in county government improving their communities,” said FAC Executive Director Chris Holley. “The more than 280 graduates is a testament to the importance of this program to Florida and our counties.”

Far fewer Commissioners have received the Advanced County Commissioner (ACC) certification. To date, there are only 76 ACC graduates. Commissioner Artz is delighted to be joining this elite group of Commissioners.

The first of the three seminars for the 2010-2011 ACC class will be held on October 28-29, 2010 in Alachua County. The seminar will focus on “Tough Times, Tough Policy Choices: County Government Leadership in These Turbulent and Transformative Times.”

The following Commissioners were selected to attend the 2010-11 Advanced County Commissioner program along with Commissioner Artz: Akin Akinyemi, Leon; Brandon Arrington, Osceola; Terry Atchley, Hardee; Walter Boatright, Nassau; Hines Boyd, Jefferson; Douglas Croley, Gadsden; Travis Cummings, Clay; Wendell Davis, Clay; Randy Durden, Gilchrist; Chris Dzadoovsky, St. Lucie; Kenny Eubanks, Putnam; Margaret Garrard Helton, Okeechobee; Michael Harford, Osceola; D. Ray Harrison, Jr., Gilchrist; Fred Hawkins, Jr., Osceola; Bill Howell, Washington; Pinki Jackel, Franklin; Stacy Johnson, Nassau; Danny Leeper, Nassau; Buddy Mansfield, Desoto; Stan McClain, Marion; Gene Morgan, Gadsden; Joseph "Smokey" Parrish, Franklin; Alan Peterson, Flagler; Wilson Robertson, Escambia; Judy Schaefer, Desoto; Robert Skidmore, Charlotte; Edwin Smith, Polk; Karson Turner, Hendry; Winn Webb, Citrus; Kevin White, Escambia; Warren Yeager, Gulf.

Following is the complete list of County Commissioners who received their Certified County Commissioner designation in 2010: Akin Akinyemi, Leon; Brandon Arrington, Osceola; Lynn Artz, Wakulla; Terry Atchley, Hardee; Walter Boatright, Nassau; Hines Boyd, Jefferson; Don Burgess, Sumter; Brenda Carey, Seminole; Ed Ciampi, Martin; Travis Cummings, Clay; Wendell Davis, Clay; Marsha Drew, Levy; Randy Durden, Gilchrist; Christopher Dzadoovsky, St. Lucie; Ronnie Edmonds, Dixie; Kenny Eubanks, Putnam; Justin Hamrick, Madison; Michael Harford, Osceola; Wayne Harris, Okaloosa; D. Ray Harrison, Gilchrist; Mark Hatch, Dixie; Fred Hawkins, Osceola; Patrick Hayes, Martin; Margaret Helton, Okeechobee; Gene Higginbotham, Dixie; Bill Howell, Washington; Pinki Jackel, Franklin; Stacy Johnson, Nassau; Cecilia Jones, Walton; Danny Leeper, Nassau; Buddy Mansfield, DeSoto; Carolyn Mason, Sarasota; Gene Morgan, Gadsden; Malcolm Page, Taylor; Renetta Parrish, Madison; Alan Peterson, Flagler; Harold Pickron, Calhoun; Barbara Revels, Flagler; Wilson Robertson, Escambia; Judy Schaefer, DeSoto; Robert Skidmore, Charlotte; Edwin Smith, Polk; Donna Storter Long, Glades; Sherrie Taylor, Gadsden; Kenrick Thomas, Gilchrist; Karson Turner, Hendry; Winn Webb, Citrus; Ken Welch, Pinellas and Warren Yeager, Gulf.

For more information about FAC's Certification and Advanced Certification courses for County Commissioners, visit the FAC web site at [www.fl-counties.com](http://www.fl-counties.com). Founded in 1929, the Florida Association of Counties is a non-profit association representing the diverse interests of Florida's counties.